

# The Generator

Issue 473  
November 2020



**Palmerston Model Engineering Club**  
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Managers of the Marriner Reserve Railway - Marriner Street - Palmerston North  
PO Box 4132 - Manawatu Mail Centre - Palmerston North 4442

## The Palmerston North Model Engineering Club

### Upcoming Club Nights

Club Nights held at the Hearing Association Hall 435 Church Street,  
Palmerston North 7.30 pm unless advised otherwise.

#### 28 November 2020 (Saturday)

The last club function for the year, gather at the Feilding Steam Rail Depot at 11am for a brief update on the Wab 794 overhaul. Then some lunch down town before an afternoon visit to the Coach House Museum. All members and extended family welcome.

#### 28 January 2021

##### Shed Visit

Taking advantage of the summers evening light a visit to an interesting shed/man cave has been arranged. Venue to be advised,

### Marriner Reserve Railway

#### 6 December & 20 December

Railway operations at the Mariner Reserve  
Trains in operation from 1pm to 3pm  
Weather permitting (Kerry Puklowski 06 353 6189)

#### Thursdays

Railway operations for club members  
Subject to ongoing track maintenance and weather  
Contact track manager (Richard Lockett 06 323 0948)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is a very brief Presidents Report, a reflection of the times. The year that was is slowly drawing to a close, and what a unique year 2020 was. I am confident that we will all look back on this period of our lives with disbelief at the turbulent events that defined the year.

The club meeting scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> November will be the last club meeting of the year, and this is the last scheduled issue of the Generator for the same period. As club president I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the club members for their support and their tolerance while the club navigated its way through these turbulent times. Unfortunately there is still more disruption to come, but the club is robust enough to withstand this. Operations at the Marriner Reserve quickly returned to normal after the last lockdown ended, and patronage is steadily increasing.

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all the club members and their families good health, and a good and enjoyable Christmas.

Personal Note: I have a long association with French Shipping Companies working with them in the South of France and in the French Protectorates around the Pacific. Working in their ship yards is hard physical work. The hours are long, the climate is intolerably hot, but the structure of their working day reflects their social attitudes. The two hour lunch breaks, the casual approach to alcohol at work, work meetings at the local restaurant, the socialising, and of course having your lunch (de-stressing) at the local pub. As a ship yard manager said to me one day "David: When in France do it the French Way". Can't argue with that advice.

Keep Healthy and Keep Building  
David Bell



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## [November Club Meeting](#)

Meet at the Feilding Steam Rail Depot at 11 am to view the progress on the significant rebuild of NZR Locomotive Wab 794, to which club members Liam Puklowski and Stuart Anderson have an ongoing involvement with. We will then proceed at noon to the Rosebowl Cafe and Bakery or another venue of your choosing for lunch followed by an afternoon visit to the Coach House Museum and followed by afternoon tea supplied. If you are desirous of having lunch at the Rosebowl as recommended by our organiser please contact **Chris Morton 06 3238001** so that table space can be reserved. Please note that there is a \$10.00 admission charge for the Coach House Museum.

## [Request For Assistance](#)

I have received a request from a local retired gentleman who makes ornate wooden jewellery boxes as a hobby. He is currently contemplating the manufacture of a clone of a historic box that requires ornate brass latches and special hidden hinges. These will be made from 1.0 mm brass but their ornate design places their fabrication beyond his skill set. He has approached the club asking if anybody could assist with their manufacture.

An example of the box this gentleman is contemplating building can be found at <https://daniellucian.com/antiques/DL240/antique-jewellery-box-in-coromandel-with-betjemann-patent-mechanism#mz-expanded-view-876156469389>

If anybody is interested please contact me by email and I will provide more details for you.

David Bell

This superb RD 8 crawler tractor was recently photographed in operation in a park in the suburb of Awapuni, Palmerston North



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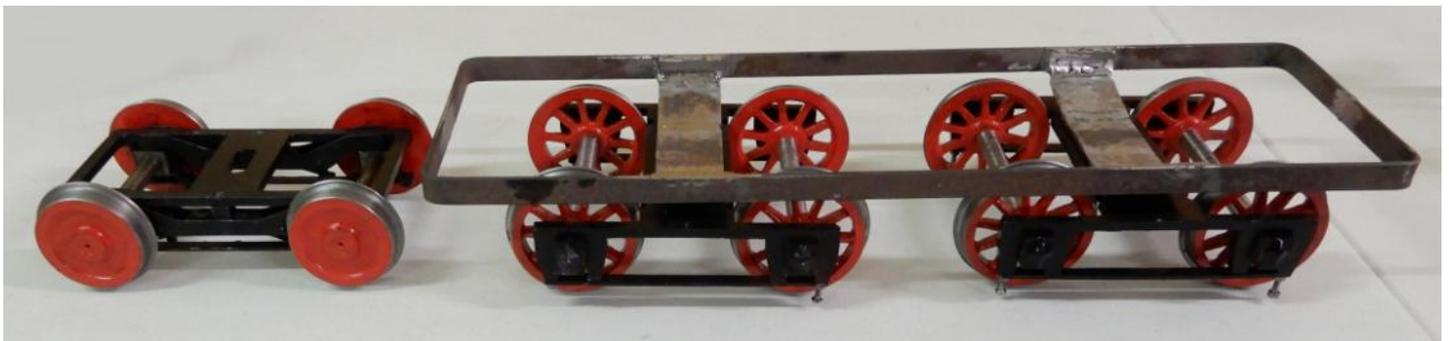
## October Meeting Report

The Club Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October was our “Winter Project Progress Night”. The membership turn out for this meeting was not large but some very varied projects of good quality were on display.

Graham Hall brought along the latest aero engine that he is building. This particular engine was started by a former club member Alex Dickson some time ago before Graham took it over as a box of unfinished pieces. This engine is fitted with glow plug ignition which is at variance to the spark ignition normally used. The moving parts of the engine are complete but Graham explained he still has the inlet and exhaust manifolds to make. Graham has constructed the engine stand for this engine so that the engine can be mounted with the crank case back plate removed. With the crank case workings exposed Graham was able to demonstrate the operation of the master and articulating connecting rod assembly as the engine was turned.



Merv George (the club librarian) brought along another batch of books that are surplus to requirements for club members to take. Merv also bought along a metal bender and demonstrated the unique way this machine clamps the material to the mandrel during the bending process. Benders of this type have been the subject of many technical articles in the “Model Engineer”.



Ian McLellan brought along the tender frames, tender bogies, and leading bogie he has made for his “Virginia”. Ian explained that the construction of this locomotive is a long term project but that progress is being made.

Fin Mason brought along an oak box he is making to house his rotary table. The oak panels used in this construction originated from an old dresser that was used for storage in his garage. Fin described the methods he used for making the joints and cutting the recesses for the handles.

Bruce Geange brought along a beautifully made scale model jeep that he has constructed from wood. The model is true to scale and is complete with all standard accessories, shovel, picks and removable jerry can. The wheels and tyres are also made from wood and the headlights and all other lighting works. Bruce certainly captivated the members attention when describing how he went about constructing this fine model.



David Bell brought along his 3.1/2 inch gauge Tich Steam locomotive. David explained that this locomotive is now jokingly known within the family as No 47 because that is how many years ago that he started building it. During the first lockdown David was clearing out his workshop ready to start work on his 5 inch gauge Baldwin when he had the unfinished Tich in his hands over the rubbish bin but couldn't let it go. So as punishment for being a sentimental old fool he now has to rebuild and finish it. David explained that prior to his son being born good progress had been made towards the completion of this locomotive. However after his arrival (followed by his two sisters) all model engineering work stopped for many years. So therefore it is only fair that after its completion his son should become the locomotive's custodian. This will be a quick build, and upon completion this model will be off to Canada for safe keeping.

David also brought along some 3D printed tool holders that he will use to locate tools in a toolbox he is kitting out as a tool storage cabinet.



Report David Bell, Photos Bruce Geange

## [Mystery Locomotive](#)

Last Sunday the 15th of November at the Marriner Reserve Railway a teenaged boy showed up with a locomotive which he wished to show us. We were amazed with what he produced from the inside of his back pack and so here are the photo's of the locomotive which the boy found up in the roof cavity of the garage where he is living not far from the Marriner Reserve.



Most of us knew that it was a model of the electric locomotives that hauled the trains from Wellington north to Paepakariki but I got the model number wrong thinking it was a EW when it is a ED of 1939 when that line was electrified with the completion of the Tawa deviation. Kyle Mudgway correctly pointed out that the road number plate had Ea on it instead of Ew or Ed which for the detail given to the loco seemed a bit odd. So its gauge 1 and was electric powered with a central track pickup. Wheels bar front bogie are missing and the frames are of heavy brass plate and even in this condition is a stunning model! So who built it, when and why, Ea102 is the only clue.



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